



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY
Health Department

1930 Ninth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
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April 10, 2015

Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee
Montana Legislature
Helena, Montana

SENATE
PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY
Exhibit No. ~~11~~ 6
Date 4/10/2015
Bill No. HB 305

Re: HB 305 Revised laws related to protecting Montana's children

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee,

The coordination of services in our community is vital for children and their families' overall health and well-being. When children enter child & family services due to abuse and/or neglect, a powerful partnership can be formed with county health departments to provide support and services that result in successful outcomes for families.

Lewis & Clark Public Health offers a wide variety of family support services through our highly qualified and professional Healthy Families Home Visiting team consisting of four Registered Nurses, a Social Worker, and a Registered Dietitian. Our services range from breastfeeding support and nutrition services to assisting families with access to health care and high-quality home visiting programs. Nurse-Family Partnership, SafeCare Augmented, and Parents as Teachers are three evidence-based home visiting models we offer that improve a range of outcomes rated to child development, child and maternal health, parenting practices, family economic self-sufficiency, and the prevention of child maltreatment.

A coordinated and collaborative approach to services for families could result in significant cost savings from life lost to child maltreatment. Investing in high-quality, in-home services provided by county health departments paired with supports through child & family services equates to a return way beyond the monetary to healthy, thriving, well adjusted, securely attached children.

On behalf of Lewis & Clark Public Health, we request the committee's support of HB 305.

Sincerely,

Drenda Niemann
Community Health Promotion Division Administrator
Lewis & Clark Public Health
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*"To Improve and Protect the Health of all Lewis and
Clark County Residents."*